



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXIV - Fiftieth Year

Thursday, November 2, 1967

No. 212

Eshkol Says He Is Ready To Go To Amman In Quest Of Peace

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1. (JTA) — Prime Minister Levi Eshkol announced today that he was prepared to go to Amman to meet King Hussein of Jordan to negotiate a peace settlement or to invite the monarch to come to Jerusalem for that purpose. Mr. Eshkol's declaration was made to a delegation of one hundred representing the Joint Palestine Appeal of Britain.

(Asked pointblank in a German television interview whether he was prepared to negotiate with Israel, King Hussein, who ended a visit to West Germany yesterday, avoided direct answer, asserting that "each nation has to decide its own fate. Israel now has the possibility of proving it wants peace." Asked if Jordan could live without the West Bank, the king asserted that "we cannot tolerate this status quo and as long as this situation remains, there will be no peace in the whole area.")

Hussein Evades Question On Readiness To Negotiate; Seeks Arms in Britain, USA

LONDON, Nov. 1. (JTA) — King Hussein of Jordan had a 45-minute meeting today with Foreign Secretary George Brown arranged, according to official British sources, at the king's request. The Jordanian ruler, it was reported, stressed the urgent need for agreement in the United Nations Security Council on a balanced Middle East resolution. He was said to have warned Mr. Brown that the present Jordan-Israel situation was "very dangerous" and could result in a major incident.

On his arrival here, the king made it clear that he was seeking modern aircraft to rebuild Jordan's shattered air force. British experts saw little possibility of any arrangement unless the British Government was prepared to foot the bill. Hussein was said to want at least 20 jet fighters. The London Daily Telegraph asserted editorially today that Hussein's request "should be sympathetically considered."

(The Los Angeles Times-Washington Post service reported today that an agreement for the Jordanian purchase of 36 F-104 Starfighter jets from the United States had been quietly scrapped by mutual agreement. It was agreed, the news service said, that Jordan could not buy, fly or maintain the complex, sophisticated Starfighters. Instead, the service said, Jordan would seek to obtain the British-made Hawker-Hunter subsonic jet fighters with which its air force was equipped before the June war.

(JTA reported from Washington that an elaborate program was being arranged for King Hussein who will arrive there on Monday. Meetings have been set up with President Johnson, Secretary of State Rusk and the king will appear before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to bid for support.)

U Thant Reports Plan To Double Number of Suez Observation Posts and Observers

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 1. (JTA) — Secretary-General U Thant reported to the Security Council today on measures proposed, in consultation with Lt. General Odd Bull, to strengthen the U.N. truce observation machinery in the Suez Canal area. At the same time, Mr. Thant reiterated in the most urgent terms his appeal of September 27 to both Israel and Egypt to exercise utmost restraint and "in case of any alleged violations of the cease fire" to "make use of the U.N. observation system and not resort directly to violence."

The Secretary-General said that after consulting with General Bull, chief of the U.N. cease-fire observers corps in the Middle East, it was decided to increase the number of observation posts from 9 to 18 and the number of observers from 45 to 90, "to be allotted equally on both sides of the Canal." This action, he said, would "substantially reduce the gaps in the area where on recent occasions repeated exchanges of fire have been reported." The actual location of the new observation posts he said, would have to take into consideration the deployment of Israeli and UAR forces.

Mr. Thant said that the observers' corps will acquire patrol craft of the same type as the pilot launches used by the Suez Canal Authority which would be painted white, would be manned exclusively by U.N. personnel and would be limited in their operations to the closed waters of the canal, the Bitter Lake and adjacent waters. The task of the patrol craft, he said would be "to facilitate U.N. observation in the waters concerned of any activities likely to cause a breach of the cease fire, to provide sea rescue facilities and to support the exchange of prisoners of war, refugees, etc." He stressed that the craft "must have full freedom of movement at all times and freedom of communications with the U.N. control centers."

In addition, Mr. Thant's report said, "It is intended to acquire four suitable helicopters with operational and ground crews to provide aerial observation in the canal sector, to increase the mobility of observers and, if necessary to provide medical evacuation." He stressed again that in order to operate effectively, the helicopters must have full freedom of movement in the area of observation. He said they would be based "in suitable locations to be determined."

Mr. Thant said it was "highly desirable that cross canal communications be established between observation posts and that the use of coded messages be allowed wherever required between both control centers in the canal zone and U.N. headquarters in Jerusalem. Egypt has so far not permitted U.N. posts on the west bank of the canal to communicate directly with posts on the Israel-occupied east bank."

Cabinet Report Says Jordan Destroyed 56 Old City Synagogues, Desecrated Cemetery

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1. (JTA) — A shocking record of destruction and desecration of Jewish holy places in and around Old Jerusalem during 19 years of Jordanian rule was documented today in the report of an inter-ministerial committee that was appointed after the Six-Day War to determine the state of Jewish shrines in Jordan held territory.

The findings of the committee were summarized by Zerach Warhaftig, Minister of Religious Affairs, at a press conference here. As examples of the wanton disregard of the religious rights of others, Mr. Warhaftig noted the destruction of all but two of the 58 synagogues in the Jewish quarter of the Old City and the almost total destruction of the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives which has been in continuous use for more than 2,000 years.

The cemetery was one of the Jewish holy places to which access was promised by the Jordanians in the 1949 armistice agreements although the promise was never observed. Tombstones were carried away for purposes ranging from fortifying mortar positions to building lavatories, and the report says, documentary evidence and eye witnesses "make it clear beyond doubt that the desecration of the cemetery was carried out by Jordanian authorities for official purposes."

The Jordanian Government, according to the report, had placed a special guard at the cemetery, but only to prevent tombstones from being pilfered by private persons. Their use was authorized for building military camps, fortifications, pathways and other installations and the walls of the building that housed the army commanders. Part of the road to the Intercontinental Hotel was paved with tombstones, the report said. And the Jordanians never bothered to remove the remains of the dead. In the Old City of Jerusalem, the report went on, only the synagogue of the Cabad Hassidim and the Torat Chayin yeshiva were left standing.

Dr. Warhaftig said that there was only one known instance of a clergyman protesting against the desecration and he was told by the Jordanian authorities to mind his own business, Moslem dignitaries whom Dr. Warhaftig questioned about the outrages disclaimed all knowledge.

To Allow Free Access To Virtually All Occupied Territories

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1. (JTA) — Free access will be allowed shortly to almost all Arab territory occupied by Israeli forces in the Six-Day War, it was learned from reliable sources here today. As soon as the Defense Ministry completes technical arrangements, travellers may enter and return from occupied zones with nothing more than passport and identity card. Still off-limits, however, are middle and southern Sinai.

Report All Terrorist Bands United Under Palestine Liberation Organization

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1. (JTA) — Beirut newspapers reported today that Arab sabotage and terrorist groups were consolidated recently under the command of Ahmed Shukeiry's Palestine Liberation Front. They will be known henceforth as "Jataf." The new organization supercedes El Fatah and other terrorist bands.

A military tribunal in Gaza pronounced life sentences at hard labor on two Arab youths and 15 years' imprisonment on a third for the murder of Daniel Abel, a 16-year-old volunteer from Belgium, last August. The three men came from El Arish in occupied Sinai territory. The lighter sentence meted out to one of the defendants was in consideration of his youth.

Knesset Session Marks Declaration, First Zionist Congress Anniversaries

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1. (JTA) — The 70th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress and the 50th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration were marked in an extraordinary three-hour jubilee session of the Knesset (Parliament) here today. The chamber was packed with dignitaries from Israel and abroad and deputies of all factions except the splinter New Communist party which boycotted the event. Unexplainedly absent as well was Israel's elder statesman, former Prime Minister David Ben Gurion.

Among those present were President and Mrs. Zalman Shazar, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and his cabinet, the two chief rabbis, British Postmaster-General Edward Short, head of a special Balfour Day delegation sent by the British Government, and some 100 members of the British Joint Palestine Appeal delegation here on a special study mission.

The Speaker of the Knesset, Kadish Luz, recalled the First Zionist Congress in Basle in 1897. Prime Minister Eshkol evaluated the Balfour Declaration and spoke of the important political influence and personality of the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann who was Israel's first president.

UN Third Committee Deletes Condemnation of Anti-Semitism From Intolerance Draft

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 1. (JTA) — Observers here today conceded a victory for the Soviet Union and the Arab bloc in the General Assembly's Third Committee's vote to omit reference to anti-Semitism in its draft convention on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance.

By a vote of 87 to 2 with 7 abstentions, the committee accepted a proposal by the representative of Upper Volta that it decide not to mention any specific example of religious intolerance in the convention. The negative votes were cast by Israel and the United States.

The vote came after two weeks of wrangling in the committee which the Arab and Soviet representatives at times turned into a forum for invective against Israel. They charged that inclusion of a reference to anti-Semitism was a "trick" by Israel to forestall any criticism of her actions. The Israeli representative, Mrs. Zena Harman, suggested, as a compromise, that the term "anti-Judaism" be substituted for anti-Semitism. But the representatives of some Asian and African states, supported by non-bloc members such as Eire, maintained that the international convention should be a universal statement against religious intolerance and not specify any particular religion.

British Government Voices 'Deep Concern' For Jews in Arab Lands

LONDON, Nov. 1. (JTA) — A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that the British Government felt "deep concern" over the situation of the Jews in Arab countries. The statement was made in reply to a resolution by the Board of Deputies of British Jews drawing attention to the plight of the Jews in the Arab countries and the intensification of harassment and discrimination to which they had been subjected since the Arab-Israel war last June.

The spokesman said that "Her Majesty's Government are deeply concerned with the situation of these (Arabic-Jewish) communities, and will continue to do all it can to alleviate their situation."

Resistance Fighters Call For Renewed Struggle Against Nazism

BRUSSELS, Nov. 1. (JTA) — An organization of war-injured Belgian resistance fighters and soldiers issued an appeal today to veterans and victims of war all over the world to struggle against a revival of Nazism and to demand punishment for the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The call came from the Union Democratique des Combattants Invalides et Mutiles meeting in Antwerp which also urged rejection of the belief in the inevitability of war and urged the Belgian government to support United Nations efforts for peace.

Hochhuth Proposes That Nazi Villa In Wannsee Be Center For Research

WEST BERLIN, Nov. 1. (JTA) — The controversial playwright, Rolf Hochhuth, has called upon the Mayor and the Senate of Berlin to establish a memorial to the Jewish victims of Nazism at the villa on Grosser Wannsee street where, in January, 1942, Nazi leaders prepared the blueprint of the "final solution", the destruction of European Jewry.

Mr. Hochhuth, whose play, "The Deputy" created a storm of controversy over its charge that Pope Pius XI failed to intervene with Nazi authorities against the deportation and slaughter of Jews, proposed the memorial in a letter to the acting Mayor, published in the newspaper, Welt am Sonntag. He pointed out that, except for obelisks at the death camp sites of Bergen-Belsen, Dachau and Buchenwald, there is no monument in all of West Germany to remind the nation of the "final solution" and what it was.

He suggested that the villa, now used as a recreation center for children, be converted in part to a center for documentation and historical research into the Nazi period. He said sufficient space would remain to maintain the facilities for children.

Moscow's Chief Rabbi Levin Congratulates Katsh on Dropsie College Presidency

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 1. (JTA) — The Chief Rabbi of Moscow, Rabbi Leib Levine, has sent a message of congratulations to Dr. Abraham I. Katsh on his forthcoming inauguration as president of Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, the college disclosed today. The 70 year-old spiritual leader of Russian Jewry expressed his "despair" at not being able to attend, the installation ceremonies which will be held Nov. 26. His message was written in classical Hebrew.

Dr. Katsh will be the third president of the 60 year-old institution of higher learning. He has been director of New York University's Institute of Hebrew Studies for 33 years.

Galilee Farm Settlement Re-Named In Honor Of Rosenwald Family

JERUSALEM, Nov. 1. (JTA) — An agricultural settlement in the hills of Western Galilee south of the Lebanese border was re-named yesterday in honor of the family of William Rosenwald, New York philanthropist and honorary chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, who attended the ceremonies.

Kfar Rosenwald, formerly Saryin, is being settled by recently married sons of Jewish farmers who came to Israel from Moslem countries shortly after Israel's independence in 1948. Each family will receive a house and a one acre plot for poultry sheds and gardens and a five-acre share in cooperative orchards. Mr. Rosenwald, who presided, is in Israel as a member of the special UJA Study Mission on immigrant needs in the aftermath of the Six Day War.

Mrs. Rose Halprin To Recall JTA Role On Israel At Anniversary Luncheon Today

NEW YORK, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency and a member of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's board of directors, has accepted the invitation of the board to recall the contribution of JTA in the creation and development of Israel at the JTA 50th anniversary luncheon tomorrow at the Americana Hotel.

Mrs. Halprin, former president of Hadassah, will also make the presentation of an illuminated scroll, on behalf of the Board, to Boris Smolar, whose retirement as editor-in-chief of the agency has been announced.

Robert H. Arnow, president of JTA, will preside at the luncheon at which J. D. Weiler of New York, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, and Louis J. Fox, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, will address the gathering of Jewish leaders and representatives of the world press on the role of JTA in the world Jewish community today.

Jewish Education Body Calls For Defeat of Proposed New York Constitution

NEW YORK, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The American Association for Jewish Education, the national service agency in the field of Jewish education, said today that the elimination of the Blaine Amendment from the proposed State Constitution for New York was "contrary to the public interest and the common needs of Jewish education." The statement was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the national officers of the agency which is the parent body for bureaus of Jewish education in 40 communities and coordinates the educational activities of 17 national religious and fraternal bodies.

The statement pointed out that while the AAJE has advocated greater support of Jewish parochial education, "we regard the doctrinal objectives of religious education as the exclusive responsibility of the religious and ethnic groups that desire them." The statement warned that to charge the state with financial responsibility for the parochial educational system would "intensify organized separatist religious pressure on the uses of public educational budgets" and would be "an invitation to government to involve itself acrimoniously in the sacred precincts of religion."

The Blaine Amendment, Article XI, Section 3 of the present Constitution, forbids the use of public funds for the support of religious schools. The 73-year-old provision was eliminated from the draft of the new constitution being submitted to the electorate on Nov. 7. In its stead is the language of the First Amendment of the Federal Bill of Rights and a proviso giving the taxpayer the right to challenge expenditures made for religious schools.

Jewish Community Council of Rochester Urges Rejection of Proposed New Charter

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Council of Rochester called today for the defeat of the proposed New York State Constitution because it "removes the prohibition of the expenditure of public state funds for denominational schools." The Council declared that "this fundamental flaw would drive a wedge into the wall of separation of church and state and would do grave injury to the public school system." It stressed that "from ancient days, the Jewish community has acted on the principle that religious groups should provide for the religious education of their children."

Jewish Group Backs Pennsylvania Bill Permitting State Aid To Religious Schools

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- The Pennsylvania Committee for Legislation to Aid Hebrew Day Schools, an organization composed of Orthodox rabbis and laymen and officials of the Beth Jacob School here, have come out in support of the Mullen Bill now pending in the state's General Assembly. The bill would bypass existing constitutional provisions against use of state funds for religious schools by setting up an authority to provide educational services under contract.

A large number of Pennsylvania Jewish organizations have gone on record against the bill on the grounds that it breached the traditional wall of separation of church and state. The fraternal order, Brith Sholom, came out against the bill this week. Among its opponents is the Solomon Schechter Day School, which would be a substantial beneficiary of the measure.

Rabbi Ephraim E. Yolles, head of the Philadelphia Orthodox rabbinate, is chairman of the statewide committee and Rabbi Aaron Popack, executive director of the Beth Jacob School here, is secretary.

More Than Five Million People Visited Israel Pavilion At Expo 67

MONTREAL, Nov. 1. (JTA) -- More than five million people visited the Israel Pavilion at Expo 67, making the Israeli exhibit one of the most popular pavilions at the world's fair, according to a report by its management on the six months during which the exhibit was open to the public.

The report noted that more than 3,000 newsmen, both local and foreign, visited the pavilion and hundreds of radio and television programs were initiated there. A team of 13 Israeli hostesses, all at least tri-lingual, directed the visitors through the pavilion and participated in the various radio and television programs.

The Israeli Pavilion was designed to interpret the overall theme of the World Exposition, "Man and His World." The exhibit, consequently, was an effort to depict the rebirth of the Jewish nation in its ancient homeland. Among the artistic activities at the pavilion were 20 film showings daily, a festival of choirs, Bible readings, theatrical performances, concerts and lectures on literature.